

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8457

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION BERLIN

USAREUR

USAFE

USCINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FRANKFURT 4635

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJ: SOUTH HESSEN SPD TILTS SLIGHTLY TO THE LEFT

1. THE POLITICAL ORIENTATION OF THE SOUTH HESSEN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP TILTED A TOUCH BACK TO THE LEFT AT ITS REGULAR ANNUAL CONVENTION HELD IN FRIEDBERG ON JUNE 17-18. THE OUTCOME RESULTED PRIMARILY FROM A LACK OF COORDINATION AND POOR MANAGEMENT BY SPD MODERATES AND RIGHT-WINGERS WHO FAILED TO CAPITALIZE ON THEIR SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS OF A YEAR AGO TO MAKE THE SPD LEADERSHIP IN SOUTHERN HESSE MORE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AVERAGE SPD VOTER. (SEE 76 FRANKFURT 3070).

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2. RUDI ARNDT, THE FORMER SPD LORD MAYOR OF FRANKFURT WHO TOOK AN UNEXPECTEDLY SEVERE DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF THE CDU IN MARCH 20 COMMUNAL ELECTIONS, WAS REELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTH HESSEN SPD. DESPITE THE BEGINNINGS OF A MOVE SOME WEEKS AGO TO FIELD A MODERATE OR MORE

CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB, THERE WAS NO
OPPOSING CANDIDATE TO ARNDT.

3. THE MINOR TILT TO THE LEFT CAME IN THE FORM
OF THE ELECTION OF WOLFRAM HEYN, A KNOWN LEFT-
WINGER WHO SUCCEEDED FORMER HESSE SOCIAL MINISTER
HORST SCHMIDT, A RIGHT-WINGER KILLED IN AN AUTO-
MOBILE ACCIDENT IN 1976, ON THE PARTY'S GOVERNING
BOARD, AND THE SOMEWHAT UNEXPECTED REELECTION TO
THE BOARD OF FORMER JUSO NATIONAL CHAIRLADY HEIDI
WIECZOREK-ZEUL. THE ONLY CONSOLATION TO PARTY
MODERATES AND RIGHT-WINGERS CAME WHEN SPD BUNDESTAG
DEPUTY MANFRED COPPIK, A WELL-KNOWN LEFT-WINGER
AND ONE OF THE SPD DEFECTORS DURING THE BUNDESTAG
VOTE ON THE GOVERNMENTS TAX PROPOSALS LAST WEEK
(SEE BONN 10163), WITHDREW AS A CANDIDATE FOR
THE GOVERNING BOARD.

4. ASIDE FROM A LONG AND WIDE-RANGING TOUR
D'HORIZON BY SPD NATIONAL CHAIRMAN WILLI BRANDT
AND A GOOD DEAL OF THE USUAL BICKERING., LITTLE
ELSE TRANSPIRED AT FRIEDBERG ON THIS OCCASION.

5. THE UPSHOT IS THAT SOUTH HESSEN'S SOCIAL
DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP REMAINS SPLIT ALMOST
EVENLY BETWEEN ITS WELL-ORGANIZED LEFT-WING ON
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THE ONE HAND AND THE MODERATES, WHO UNDOUBTEDLY
ARE SUBSTANTIALLY MORE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
LARGE MAJORITY OF THE SPD VOTERS ON THE OTHER.
RUDI ARNDT SUCCESSFULLY WEATHERED AN ATTEMPT,
INITIALLY MOUNTED BY BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT, TO END
HIS POLITICAL CAREER IN THE WAKE OF THE ELECTION
DISASTER OF MARCH 20 AND SEEMS DETERMINED TO TRY
FOR A COMEBACK. THE CDU WILL TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE
OF THE EVENTS IN FRIEDBERG LAST WEEKEND TO
CHARGE THAT THE RADICAL LEFT CONTINUES TO
COMINATE SPD AFFAIRS IN HESSE. LEHMANN

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Message Attributes

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